



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - September 23, 2003

- ***In the West***, moisture associated with Tropical Storm Marty is overspreading ***southern portions of Arizona and New Mexico***, sparking scattered showers. Elsewhere, warm, dry weather is ideal for autumn fieldwork, including planting of ***Northwestern*** winter grains.
- ***On the Plains***, dry weather is promoting fieldwork and summer crop maturation. Although winter wheat planting continues to advance, cool weather and soil moisture shortages are slowing crop emergence, especially from the ***central High Plains northward into Montana***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool, dry weather favors corn and soybean maturation and a limited return to fieldwork, following recent rainfall. However, drought-stressed pastures are still in need of moisture across the ***northern and western Corn Belt***, roughly north of a line from ***Kansas City to Detroit***.
- ***In the South***, rain falling on saturated soils is causing flash flooding in ***southern Mid-Atlantic areas*** recently soaked by Hurricane Isabel. Elsewhere in the ***Atlantic Coast region***, showers are causing only minor fieldwork delays. Meanwhile, dry weather favors fieldwork from the ***western Gulf Coast region to the southern Appalachians***.

Outlook: Cool, dry weather will spread across the ***eastern one-third of the Nation*** as a cold front sweeps off the ***Atlantic Coast***, although showers will linger in ***Florida***. Meanwhile, scattered showers and below-normal temperatures will accompany a strong cold front crossing the ***northern and central Plains***. The front will reach the ***Great Lakes and Midwestern States*** by mid-week. Generally dry weather will prevail from the ***Rockies westward to the Pacific Coast***, although the remnants of former Hurricane Marty will provide occasional rain to the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for September 28 - October 2 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Atlantic Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected from the ***Mississippi Valley westward to the Pacific Coast***. Above-normal temperatures are likely in ***the western half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast across ***the eastern half of the Nation***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>